

Message Text

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61-60

ACTION PA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7008

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17250

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR U.S. CLEARANCE IN PUBLICATION OF
BRITISH EMBASSY MOSCOW TELEGRAM 1946.

1. FCO (HARCOMBE) HAS ASKED FOR U.S. CLEARANCE IN
RELEASE AND PUBLICATION OF TELEGRAM FROM BRITISH EMBASSY
MOSCOW TO FOREIGN OFFICE OF AUGUST 8, 1946. HARCOMBE
ASKED THAT THE MESSAGE BE SHOWN TO ALLEN THOMPSON OF
NATIONAL ARCHIVES TO SEE WHETHER U.S. WOULD HAVE ANY
OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE. PUBLICATION AND RELEASE ARE
PLANNED FOR JANUARY 1, 1977 AT COMPLETION OF 30 YEARS
CURRENTLY REQUIRED IN BRITAIN ON RELEASE OF GOVERNMENT
DOCUMENTS.

2. EMBASSY WILL APPRECIATE TELEGRAPHIC NOTIFICATION AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. TEXT OF BRITISH EMBASSY TELEGRAM IS AS FOLLOWS:

"IT MAY BE OF INTEREST THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HERE
/HAVE SENT A TELEGRAM TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH THEY
HAVE SHOWN US IN STRICT CONFIDENCE' ON THE SOVIET ATTITUDE
TOWARDS THE PALESTINE QUESTION.

4. "THE TELEGRAM STATES THAT A BASIC AIM OF SOVIET POLICY
IS TO WEAKEN BRITISH AND AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST, AND TO WIN OVER AS MUCH SYMPATHY AS POSSIBLE IN THE
ARAB COUNTRIES. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
IDEOLOGICALLY AND IN PRACTICE OPPOSED TO ZIONISM. THEIR
RECENT PROPAGANDA ON THE SUBJECT HAS CONCENTRATED ITS
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FIRE ON ANGLO-AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND ON THE DEMAND THAT

BRITISH SHOULD QUIT PALESTINE. IT IS CLEAR THAT NO ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR SOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WOULD SATISFY BOTH SIDES; BUT THE MORE ANY SUCH PROPOSALS ANTAGONISE THE ARABS BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE PALESTINE THE EASIER WILL BE THE TASK OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA. THE TURKS ARE ALREADY ANXIOUS ABOUT THE ATTITUDE TO RUSSIA OF SOME ARAB LEADERS (E.G. IN SYRIA) AND ANY APPRECIABLE ACCENTUATION OF THIS TREND IN HER REAR MIGHT WELL WEAKEN TURKEY'S WILL TO RESIST.

5. "IT IS IMPORTANT THAT NO (REPEAT NO) REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO THIS TELEGRAM IN CONVERSATION WITH ANY AMERICAN.

6. "FOREIGN OFFICE PLEASE PASS TO WASHINGTON AS MY TELEGRAM NO. 452. (REPEATED TO WASHINGTON UNDER FOREIGN OFFICE NO. 7782."

ARMSTRONG

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